

ARIZONA



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TISDALE A. HAND,

"The Gold of that Land is good."

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THE MINES OF ARIZONA.

The San Francisco Bulletin has an entertaining article upon the antiquity of the mines upon the Pacific coast, and especially those of Arizona and Sonora. We quote as follows:

In 1700, the rich mines of North Sineloa were opened. In 1730, the Planchas de la Plata, of Arizona, or masses of native silver, were found. Then we had, in 1770, the great placers of Cle-naquilla, to the north of Hermosillo, where the immense chips of 70 pounds—sent to the cabinet of the King of Spain—and several millions besides, were picked up. After this came the discoveries farther to the north, on the rivers which flow into the Gila from the south, and also the headwaters of the Sonora river, and those of the Oposura and Yaqui, which interlock with the tributaries of the Gila, in the country of the Opatas, Tarahumaras, Yanoes, and Apaches; which before 1800, had by spasmodic starts, yielded large quantities of gold. This section of the present Arizona, and as far up as the Navajos, and east to the Comanche range, is known in Mexico as the Apacharia, of which the most apparent fabulous stories have been told. From 1700 to 1863, concerning the existence of immense mines and deposits of gold, quicksilver silver and copper, both in veins and pure metal, which are every day proving the truth of the accounts of the old missionaries and gambucinos.

After 1800, discoveries were made in many places every few years, near all the old mission settlements of Sonora, even as late as 1846. In 1825, Capt. Patie mentions that rich gold placers were worked near Bacuachi, not far south from Tucson, and the price of gold was only \$11 and \$12 to the ounce. The account of Patie, who died at San Diego in 1829, is the first printed one we have of any American, or even of other parties, who came by land to California, through Sonora and New Mexico. He mentions several other places in the Bacuachi, or river San Pedro country, where gold was produced in abundance when the Apaches were out of the way. Again, from 1838 to 1844, the gold placers of San Fernando, near Los Angeles, are of public notoriety, as yielding very handsome returns.

If the true history of the mineral wealth of the district of country included in the above notes, could be arrived at—as it was perhaps one day truly ascertained—it would be found, that if the Pacific coast was not the "Biblical Ophir," that a large proportion of the wealth of the world, in coin, has been produced from this coast, in years by-gone; of which the history has long since been lost. From and after 1863, the mineral resources of the scope of country here alluded to, will form the golden page in history—the one never to be obliterated.

THE COLORADO QUESTION.

The following from a letter dated at Olive City, and published in the Alta California, shows that there are two sides to the question of navigating the Colorado:

Having but recently made a trip to La Paz, from this place, I have been an eye-witness of the many difficulties the Colorado Steam Navigation Company have been subjected to. During my trip there were days we did not make six miles headway, owing to the numerous sand-bars that are constantly forming, over which we were obliged to cross. There being no channel, the pilots have to feel their way along every trip, and I must confess my surprise that the Company has been as successful as it has, all of which is owing to the indefatigable energy displayed by Captain George A. Johnson, who has worked daily, like a Trojan, at the wheel, and in a small boat, in advance of the steamer, sounding for a couple of feet of water, over which he hoped to pass his steamer and her cargo. Captain Johnson has navigated the Colorado River for over twelve years—first with flat boats, propelled by Indian power, and subsequently by steam. No man knows the river better than himself; and when he finds it difficult navigation, I pity others whose presumption prompts them to undertake it.

Within the recollection of the oldest inhabitant, the Colorado river never has been as low as at present. The very fact of the starving condition of the Indians on its banks, speaks far more loudly than human tongue can utter or pen write.

Having been an old resident in this country, and one that would have laughed at the bare idea of towns being established above this place, three years ago, I do not wonder that the Company cannot, just at this moment, keep pace with

the extraordinary demand made upon them for transportation. No one, six months ago, would have anticipated this. But last summer their boats were laid up, doing nothing. It has been the custom, for years past, for them to lie up at least eight months out of each year, thereby causing great loss to the Company. Therefore I feel justified in saying that the Company were not at fault, but rather that their owners and agents have labored most assiduously to please and accommodate all.

LAND OFFICE DECISION.

We append below, the first decision of Commissioner Edmunds of the General Land Office, upon questions concerning land entries that have arisen in Colorado. It will be interesting to many of our readers;

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

Nov. 23, 1863.

Register and Receiver, Golden City, Colorado Territory:

GENTLEMEN: I have received a letter of the 21st ult. from E. S. Browne, Esq., United States District Attorney, making inquiry as to the rights of pre-emptors under the act of June 2, 1862, Statutes at Large, volume 12, page 413, and stating that many citizens of Colorado had filed declaratory statements with the Surveyor-General under said act, more than twelve months before the opening of the Land Office. The said act of June 2, 1862, extending the pre-emption laws to Colorado, contains the following stipulations: "That when unsurveyed lands are claimed by pre-emption, notice of the specific tracts claimed, shall be filed within six months after the survey has been made in the field," and on failure to file such notice, or to pay for the tracts claimed, within twelve months from the filing of such notice, the parties claiming such lands shall forfeit all right thereto, provided said notice may be filed with the Surveyor-General, and to be noted by him on the township plats, until other arrangements have been made for that purpose."

First: Now, where declaratory statements have been filed with the Surveyor-General, you will, on their transfer to your office, regard them as effective, and the twelve months within which payment is to be made, as counting from the date of the opening of the District Land Office, viz: October 5th, 1863. Where conflicts may arise, the date as to priority of filing and improvements, will constitute the basis for the settlement of such conflicts.

Second: Where lands may be surveyed subsequent to the opening of the District Land Office, the filing under the action of the law must be made within six months after the survey in the field, proof and payment to be made within twelve months after the filing, under penalty of forfeiture.

Third: As to the right of pre-emptors under the homestead act of May 20, 1862, in my letter of the 26th ult. you were informed that "the right to transmute pre-emptions" into donations is restricted to those only who have filed their applications for a pre-emption right prior to the passage of the Homestead Act, viz: May 20, 1862."

A SOLDIER'S ADVICE.—Gen. Carrington, on a recent visit to an Indiana regiment, made the following sensible speech:

"I soon leave you—do not expect a speech. I am a man of few words. They will seem homely, but they are the result of experience. First avoid profane speech. He who is the God of Battle, and holds the issues of life should be revered, if you would have his blessing. The man who honors his holy name is a true soldier. He fears not to die because he is prepared for the issue of death. Temperance is the next virtue. The best stimulus to the soldier is his coffee. Liquors are temporary, and bring relaxation, and they also involve bad habits. Water should be used frequently, but in small drafts. Too much water at a time involves prostration and weakens the body. Drink it often, but always in moderation. Be chaste and truthful. Be as good a citizen in the service as out of it. Bathing is important; keep clean. If your feet are sore after a march, bathe them in soft water, and you will be fresh in the morning. In closing, let me say that nothing pains me so much as seeing a soldier who forgets his duty as a citizen and a Christian. Be so pure that your wives and sweethearts will honor you, every step of your progress as a soldier. If we meet again, it will be with my pleasure and duty to serve the country with you; if not be true to the flag, and your country will honor you. For myself, all I have to say, after two days' drill is, I am satisfied. Take that as a soldier's good by."

NEW ROUTE TO WALKER'S DIGGINGS.—It is stated upon good authority, that a good road to the above mines may be found, direct from Los Angeles, by way of Williams' Fork, which is much shorter than the route by Fort Mohave or La Paz. It is thought that a distance of one hundred miles may be saved; the route may be traced out upon the map as almost a due east and west line between the two points, and would suggest itself as one well worthy at least, of examination by those holding interests in the Williams' Fork and other districts in that vicinity. It is reported accessible both by way of Morongo Pass and Cajon, leaving the Mohave river to the left, passing to the north and east of the San Bernardino range of mountains. We have seen samples of rich mineral rock taken from lodes which have recently been discovered in the vicinity of the proposed new route. In the event that the route here mentioned proves eligible, it will lead to the opening up of one or two more rich mineral districts near at home. That portion of the route from Williams' Fork eastward to the new mines has proved the best yet discovered, and to make it the shortest route by which the new mines may be reached from Los Angeles, only needs the countenance of our citizens—a little encouragement and aid to those who will undertake to open the road.—[Los Angeles News.]

THE United States Railroad and Mining Register gives the following as the area of the Western Territories, and the Pacific slope:

Arizona.....	126,141
New Mexico.....	121,201
Nevada.....	82,970
Utah.....	106,859
Colorado.....	104,500
Nebraska.....	78,894
Dakota.....	148,932
Idaho.....	82,373
Washington.....	59,993

Total eleven territories.....	1,163,000
California.....	182,358
Oregon.....	95,274

Total two States.....	277,632
Total area of the eleven territories and two states.....	1,440,632

The eleven Territories, which will soon be divided into States, are as large in geographical area as twenty five States of the size of Pennsylvania.

THE POSTAL MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.—The Postmaster General again urges the adoption of the money order system, which is now in successful operation in Europe. Probably nothing better could be devised for the transmission of small sums of money safely than this money order system. A person could purchase an order instead of sending money through the post office, and consequently his letter would be safe from any dishonest depredator who might be tempted by the presence of the money to pilfer it. The system is so simple and convenient and so free from objections, that the only wonder is how a practical and economical people like ourselves can afford to do without it so long. Congress ought at once to take up the recommendation and give the people and the Post-Office Department what they ask for, and which will facilitate so largely their transactions with each other.

THE MOWRY CASE.—We hear that Sylvester Mowry has commenced suit against Generals Carleton and West, for damages to the amount of over a million dollars, sustained by him and those he represents, by the seizure of the Palagonia, or Mowry mine, in the spring of 1862. As an offset, it is said the Generals aforesaid, will at once institute proceedings before the United States Supreme Court, of this Territory, against Mr. Mowry, charging him with treason. The case promises to be an important and interesting one. Mr. Mowry is now in Washington.

REMARKABLE BLAST.—The most remarkable blast in the history of iron mining took place at the Lake Superior mine, a short time since. In ordinary ones but one and a half inch hole in diameter is drilled, but in this case one of four inches in diameter and eighteen feet deep was made; distant from the edge of the cliff about ten feet; into which one keg of powder was put and exploded as preliminary, and which had the effect to open a seam to the depth of 15 feet. Sixteen kegs of powder were then put in the final charge, which threw down over three hundred tons of ore.